

The Summit

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College facilities reach contract pact; faculty group seeks better pay

BY ELIZABETH EDNIE

Members of the Stonehill College faculty and staff planned to rally over compensation issues as unionized facilities workers worked to iron out pay in a contract Wednesday, October 27 on the outskirts of campus, but a storm and a resolution of the union contract lead it to being canceled.

The day before the rally, the College and the union reached an agreement, but a faculty group said issues involving faculty are still an issue.

The day before the scheduled rally, an email was sent from the Office of Communications and Media Relations saying that the College and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which represents facilities workers reached an agreement.

This new settlement does not affect faculty, which is not unionized.

According to Jill Goddard, the director of Communications and Media Relations, the SEIU agreement is a two year contract, beginning July 1, 2021 and will last until June 30, 2023. The College and the Union agreed to keep the same benefits in terms of health and welfare, and comments on pay raise were not disclosed.

"The Union ratified the agreement this past Thursday by a vote of the entire union membership," Goddard said in an email.

While the College settled with the union, another group of faculty members associated with the national group, American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is working to get pay raises for faculty.

Newly tenured and associate professor of philosophy, Megan Mitchell, organized the since canceled rally along with both Students In Action (SIA) and March For Our Lives (MFOL) organizations.

There is now a Zoom meeting on Thursday, November 4 to discuss with the Stonehill community what the faculty are still fighting for, Mitchell said, encouraging people to attend.

"The College claims that they cannot afford to pay College employees fairly and so, we all must work harder for

less pay. We claim the College can afford to pay us and, in this zoom, we explain how," Mitchell said.

Goddard, the College spokesman said, the pandemic posed financial problems for Stonehill and other schools.

"As Father John shared in a State of the Hill address to all employees in September, many colleges and are universities facing serious financial threats due to the pandemic. The College had to make tough financial decisions these past two years," Goddard said.

The first issue arose when the pandemic began, and according to Mitchell, that was when senior administration first froze money in the faculty contracts.

"Since the early 2000s, full-time Arts and Sciences tenured/tenure-track faculty were on a salary grid system; each year we stay at Stonehill we "step up" to a new year/rank on the grid and so, receive a guaranteed 2.5% pay increase. Freezing the salary meant that for that year, we would "step up" in year/rank but we would not step up in pay," Mitchell said.

Along with the pay raise tenured faculty are supposed to get each year, the College took away the five percent retirement match, she said.

According to Mitchell, the College's benefit plan automatically contributes five percent of the base pay for a full-time employee to their retirement funds. Each employee can elect to contribute up to another five percent and the College will match that contribution. When the pandemic hit, that extra five percent match was also taken away.

Goddard said the College is matching a smaller amount of the individual's contribution at this time but it still contributes to the account.

"Under the current retirement plan, the College automatically contributes 5 percent of an employee's base salary to their retirement account with TIAA-CREF upon meeting eligibility requirements. If an employee chooses to make an additional contribution to the plan, Stonehill will match up to an additional 1 percent at this time. An employee

must contribute to the plan to receive the match," Goddard said.

Mitchell said that she, along with others, are feeling betrayed by the College because they thought the salary and retirement cuts would be temporary.

"We found out that the cuts they told us were temporary were going to become permanent, and the salary structure that they had shown us when they hired us (and for many of us was the reason we came to Stonehill even though our starting salaries were very low) was going away," Mitchell said.

"Depending on when they return the match, all employees across the College stand to lose about \$8.2 million dollars in total from our retirement accounts. For the average Associate Professor, like me, it's about \$46,000," Mitchell said.

According to Mitchell, senior administration chooses to prioritize keeping the endowment as high as possible by cutting programs and salaries.

"It says something about what their priorities are—it says that some hypothetical future student, staff, or faculty member matters more than students, staff, and faculty members now."

Goddard noted that the College is discussing the financial issues with the appropriate group representing faculty at this time.

"The College is not in direct conversation with the local AAUP chapter as they are not a part of the established faculty governance structure. The senior administration continues to work closely and respectfully to examine compensation with the Faculty Compensation Committee, a subcommittee of the Faculty Senate," Goddard said.

March For Our Lives (MFOL) is a student-led group that has helped to break down the problem into a language students can comprehend and encourages them to show their support for their fellow members of the Stonehill community.

"I think this is one of the most urgent and imperative causes that the Stonehill

community has taken up. The impact that Stonehill faculty have on students is invaluable; personally, I've built relationships with faculty members who have changed my life and made me a remarkably better person," Vice President of MFOL, Karly O'Keefe said.

O'Keefe said that MFOL has helped bring awareness to the issue by creating buttons and by passing out flyers advertising last week's rally, which was canceled due to the storm.

As a student of Mitchell's, O'Keefe said that it is horrifying to think that future classes of Stonehill students will not get the opportunities to grow and learn that she has gotten, because of poor financial decisions made by the College.

According to Mitchell, faculty members of the AAUP will be continuing to fight for fair wages.

"I think faculty can absolutely secure a fair deal from administration but we have to continue to speak up and work in solidarity with other College employees, and we need help from students and alumni. We have to work together to convince the administration to do the right thing for all its employees," Mitchell said.

According to Goddard, the senior administration works through a budget process to build a fair, sustainable and equitable annual operating budget that balances resources and needs of the College which includes any changes to compensation and benefits for all employees. That process begins in January.

Mitchell compares the issue to a leaking dam. Without a plug or a solution to the problem, another leak/problem will happen leading to more issues later on, she said.

"It feels like a dam that has started leaking everywhere at once and every time they plug one hole, another bursts open. Unless Senior Administration is willing to invest in the rebuilding the dam—making the faculty and staff whole again with fair compensation and the resources we need to do our jobs well—I don't see how it can be stopped," Mitchell said.

Cold weather brings all the symptoms

BY JORDYN FORTE

With the weather changing, runny noses, sneezing, sore throats, and the sniffles are all going around campus; but, what's the cause – allergies, colds, the flu, or COVID-19?

This semester, Stonehill has taken a number of precautionary measures to maintain the health of students and staff, including the requirement of masks in classrooms and public settings, weekly asymptomatic COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and socially-distanced classrooms whenever possible.

But many Stonehill students have still fallen ill in the past couple of weeks.

Sophomore Isabelle Pioli is one of many who have already gotten sick this semester.

Many of Pioli's professors were prepared for such

circumstances, though, and they allowed her to Zoom into class; others graciously excused her from class, she said.

"I think Stonehill is doing a great job of keeping us healthy by having us continue to test and by keeping particular regulations so that it is much less likely that the virus could be passed around unknowingly," Pioli said. "While I'm a bit worried, overall I feel calm because I know we have our masks to prevent even normal sicknesses, we are able to get tested every week, and, even if we are sick, we will easily be able to quarantine ourselves."

Though she has remained healthy this semester, senior Emma MacIntyre recently noticed the rise in allergy and common cold symptoms on

campus, as well as the change in people's response to them.

"It is good to take precautions and be aware of your symptoms, but it is also confusing to know if and when you are sick and should stay back and away from classes; this is a hard line to balance," MacIntyre said. "As numbers can quickly change if symptoms are dismissed as colds, it is also debilitating to wonder if every sniffle is a cold."

So far, the careful measures taken by Stonehill appear to be effective, and recent test result data suggests that many of the sniffles currently traveling around campus have, in fact, simply been allergies, colds, or other ailments, and not COVID-19.

According to an email from the Provost, the College's

COVID-19 positivity rate for the week of September 27 to October 1 was .03 percent, which was significantly lower than that of Bristol and Plymouth counties, where positivity rates for the week were 3.83 percent and three percent respectively.

Most recently, according to another email from the Provost, the College's COVID-19 positivity rate for the week of October 11 to October 15 was .13 percent. Despite the recent increase in the College's COVID-19 positivity rate, the College's numbers are still significantly lower than that of other communities, such as the surrounding Bristol and Plymouth counties as well as Orange County, Florida, where COVID-19 positivity rates are noticeably higher – 3.71

percent, 3.12 percent, and 4.9 percent respectively.

Provost DeBrenna Agbéniga credits the unity of Stonehill College students and staff as a key factor in the College's success in handling the Coronavirus thus far in the Fall 2021.

"We have come together as a community to protect, support, honor and really help each other to not only understand this time, but to adjust to and to manage the complexities of living through a pandemic for more than a year-and-a-half," Agbéniga said. "I encourage my students and colleagues to continue to do everything that they're doing – they're doing the right thing; it is because of what they're doing that we're able to be the best Stonehill that we can be."

The Halloween Dance is making a return

BY ELIZABETH EDNIE

The annual Halloween Dance was set to make its return on Saturday, October 30 in the Sports Complex, but is now pushed back to Saturday, November 6 due to the recent power outage.

After almost two years into a global pandemic, big events like the Halloween dance are making a comeback, and students are excited and hopeful for the normalcy that it will bring.

"It's definitely too bad they had to reschedule the dance especially with the power being restored before Saturday, but I'm glad they're still holding it next weekend. We need a return to normalcy after last year," junior Rina Sutherland said.

The Halloween Dance and other large-scale events

are planned by the Student Government Association's Programming Committee with the collaboration of Associate Director of Student Engagement, Lina Macedo.

The dance will take place in the Field House of the Sports Complex Saturday, November 6 from 10:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. and will feature a DJ, free food, a cash only beer garden for students over the age of 21 as well as a costume contest.

Wristbands will be for sale at the Information Desk in the lower level of the Roche Dining Commons each day until Friday, November 5 between 11a.m. until 7 p.m. 21+ wristbands will be for sale at the Information Desk as well between 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 5 and from 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on the day of the dance.

On Wednesday, October 27 when the power first went out on campus was when Macedo made the executive decision to push back the dance for the safety of the Stonehill community, since students were encouraged to go home if able.

"We need power to have the dance, but the factor of the students not being on campus was definitely the main problem," Kathleen Kilban, SGA Special Events Chair said.

Executive Programming Chair Alexis Thomas is excited to bring back Stonehill traditions that were absent the past year-and-a-half due to the pandemic.

"At the end of the day, costumes or not, it's one of our legendary scale dances and we are excited they are

returning! We are committed to ensuring that students get these Stonehill traditions like Skyhawk Madness and the Halloween Dance. While we are aware that it's not Halloween, we still wanted to give students the opportunity to have the Halloween dance," Thomas said.

Some students are happy about the dance being rescheduled, because they can celebrate Halloween both weekends.

"It's so nice that they were able to move it, especially being a senior. Now I get to have two Halloweends," senior Lucy Malcolm said.

Some students felt that since the rescheduled date was after Halloween, that it would not feel the same as if it was held on the original date.

"I am very excited to go to the dance. I am a little disappointed that it was rescheduled to next week just because it's not Halloween anymore, but I am looking forward to going," senior Molly Cannon said.

Due to the Nor'easter that came through last week, some

students thought that the dance being rescheduled was for the best, considering the circumstances.

"Because of the storm, I had a feeling that the dance would be getting postponed. I think it was definitely for the best to ensure that everyone and their families were okay and safe because of how long we were out of power. Despite the dance being after Halloween, I think the Stonehill community can definitely still come together and make it just as fun as it would be if it were on the scheduled date," senior Meghan Jarret said.

Despite pushing the event back a week, Kilban thinks that the dance attendance will be as high as it would have been on October 30.

"I know a lot of students were unable to celebrate Halloween last weekend and are looking forward to continuing the celebrations next week. Many students have already purchased wristbands and are looking forward to the event," Kilban said.



Photo courtesy of Student Engagement Office

Interested in writing for The Summit?

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Students experience campus-wide power outage

BY JAKE ZABSKI & KELLY LEWIS

Students were encouraged to leave campus and head home on Wednesday, October 27 after classes had been canceled for the remainder of the week due to a Nor'easter that swept through Massachusetts, causing heavy rainfall and high winds that led to a campus-wide power outage.

Caroline Abate, a senior and Resident Assistant in Bogan Hall, was awoken from the storm early Wednesday morning.

"The wind was crazy, it woke me up at 4 a.m. and I couldn't go back to sleep," Abate said.

Less than two hours later, the campus completely lost power besides the Holy Cross Center. Between 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday and 7:30 a.m. on Friday, most of campus was out of power except for select residential and academic buildings that were running via generators.

Students woke up Wednesday morning to several Hill Alerts and emails announcing that classes would be canceled for the day; later that night they would be further cancelled until Monday, November 1.

"We plan to resume classes in person on Monday, November 1," Father Denning said via email.

Due to the cancelation of classes, some students chose to leave campus while others stayed. With no internet or power, some students wondered how they would be able to get their course work done.

Alexandra Waterhouse, a sophomore, chose to stay on campus and tried to make the best out of the situation.

"The blackout hasn't been easy, but I feel like I have been able to make some good out of this situation. I mean, yes, we don't have classes, but it has allowed me to spend more time with my roommate. Yesterday we spent the whole day driving around Easton,

Bridgewater, Stoughton, and the other neighboring areas, getting supplies, laughing, and jamming out to music," Waterhouse said.

Waterhouse was concerned with not having power or Wi-Fi to complete assignments and course work, but said that her professors were very accommodating during the blackout.

Nick Fantasia, a senior and a Resident Assistant in O'Hara Hall also tried to make the best out of the situation.

"Those of us who stayed in O'Hara had a fun time at our RD's program with pizza and games. We did our best to make the most of the bad weather and make it fun," Fantasia said.

Senior Abby Guilfoyle also stayed on campus over the outage and didn't let the power being out stop her and her roommate Molly Cannon from having fun.

While most individual rooms in Bogan Hall did not have power, the common areas in the building had internet and power, which they both took advantage of.

"We honestly didn't know how long it would take to get power back but we weren't worried. We ended up using the kitchen on the 4th floor of New Hall to make muffins and cookies each night. It was really cool seeing the common areas full of people playing games or making food," Guilfoyle said.

Guilfoyle remarked that her time at school over the outage reminded her of her older sister's college stories where students often made the best of any situation and came together to support one another during hard times.

By Thursday, half of the campus had power again. The only place on campus that had not been affected by the storm and power outage was the Holy Cross Center, also known as "the Sem."

Kaitlyn Simmons, a senior

and Resident Assistant at the Holy Cross Center, said she has experienced power outages in all three previous residential halls while at Stonehill. She said living in the Sem has its perks.

"Though we have a much longer walk to the main campus than most, we are lucky enough, a majority of the time, to have power because we're on a different power grid," Simmons said. "This time with the power out, it's been nice to have my friends over to work on group projects, and let them be able to have access to Wi-Fi and electricity and heat!"

Chloe Landry, a senior, was one of the many students who chose to go home during the outage. Landry calls Berlin, Massachusetts her home and was joined by senior Jake Zabski who is from Connecticut and wasn't able to make the drive home at short notice on Wednesday.

"It was very crazy at the start trying to figure out where I'd stay and how I'd get work done, especially during the middle of the semester. However it also was a fun adventure," Landry said.

Landry and Zabski turned their days off into a much needed break by spending time doing work together, driving up to Mount Wachusett, and enjoying the fall foliage in Central Massachusetts.

On Friday October 29th, Jill Goddard, the Director of Communications and Media Relations, sent an email stating that power had been restored to campus and students were welcome to come back, even though classes remained canceled for the day.

Some students chose to come back to campus, while others stayed home. Whether students stayed or not, it's safe to say that most students enjoyed having an extra few days off to celebrate Halloween and have a much needed break after midterms.

Student Spotlight

Kasey Papineau



Photo courtesy of Kasey Papineau

Senior Kasey Papineau is a Psychology major and Healthcare Administration minor from Cumberland, RI

BY JUSTINE LONG

Q: What are you involved in on campus?

A: I am the captain of the club Women's Ultimate Frisbee team here at Stonehill and have been a part of the team since my freshman year. You may also see me working at the library as a Desk Aide a few days a week.

Q: What do you do as Captain of Women's Ultimate?

A: As captain of the frisbee team, alongside my co-captains, I have a variety of responsibilities on and off the field. On the field, I run drills, make lineups for games, teach the game to new players, and ensure a welcoming and fun environment for my teammates. Off the field, I organize home tournaments, communicate with other teams, book trips for away tournaments, and do a few other administrative tasks necessary to get our team eligible to play for the season.

Q: What are you looking forward to this summer?

A: Senior year I look forward to attending all the senior events and spending time with other students in the class of 2022 before we all graduate in May. I want to take advantage of every opportunity that I get and have as much fun as I can here at Stonehill before I say goodbye.

Q: What is your favorite memory at Stonehill?

A: My favorite memory at Stonehill is going to Myrtle Beach for a tournament over spring break with my team. It is so much fun bonding with the team for the week and we all come back from the trip so much closer. I'm hoping I get the chance to go one last time this year since we didn't get to go last year due to COVID.

Q: What is your advice to first-year students?

A: My advice for first-year students is to join clubs! Joining clubs helped me make close friends who became a big part of my Stonehill experience.

STAFF PICKS!

What is your favorite way to de-stress?

Elizabeth Ednie: Editor in Chief
Working out

Kelly Lewis: News Editor
Going on walks

Justine Long: Features Editor
Hanging out with friends

Rachel Galatis: Sports Editor
Working out

Hannah Lennon: Opinions Editor
Get Back Bay and go for a drive

Jake Zabski: Social Media Editor
Go for a drive

Lexie Braun: Advertising & Business Manager
Listening to my favorite music

Abby Campbell: Photo Editor
Hanging out with my cat

Nicole Bagala: Copy Editor
Listening to music and daydreaming

Chris Cassidy: Copy Editor
Visit my brother in Brighton

Nick Fantasia: Copy Editor
Playing video games

Paige Fitzpatrick: Copy Editor
Going to the gym

Jordyn Forte: Copy Editor
Listening to music

FEATURES

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THE SUMMIT

November 3, 2021

The College Experience for Commuters

BY JORDYN FORTE

Though Stonehill College is a largely residential campus, an increasing number of commuter students enrolling to the College has caused changes to be made on campus.

Enrollment data from the College assessing the residential and commuter breakdown at Stonehill demonstrates that there has been an increase in the percent of commuter students enrolling at Stonehill since 2018.

In the Fall 2018, for example, only 4.9 percent of the class of 2022 enrolled as commuter students, and only 9.54 percent of all Stonehill students enrolled as commuters.

In subsequent years, including the Fall 2019, Fall 2020, and Fall 2021, however, the classes of 2023, 2024, and 2025 have respectively had 7.8 percent, 9.8 percent, and 12.3 percent of students enroll as commuters. Due to the pandemic, Stonehill has seen an especially sharp rise in the number of commuters enrolled at the College in the past year.

In 2020, for example, commuters comprised 11.29 percent of the student population (273 students). In 2021, commuters now comprise 15.34 percent of the student population at the College (370 students).

Caleb J. Tobin, a freshman, is one of many whose decision to commute to Stonehill was influenced by the pandemic.

"When I was deciding

whether to live on campus or commute, the College hadn't released too much information on what the fall semester would look like with the COVID-19 restrictions, so I decided to commute," Tobin said. "I didn't want to commit to living on campus, then have the school say we have to dorm alone due to safety restrictions or something like that."

So far, Tobin said he has enjoyed his experience as a commuter student, and he feels that he is well supported by the College.

"I think the school does a good job of including commuter students and making sure we feel welcome on campus. I've even seen the school host some events for commuters," Tobin said. "The events on campus are also usually open to both residents and commuters, so you never really feel excluded from anything, either."

To further accommodate and support the rising number of commuters at Stonehill, the College recently renovated a new hang-out area for commuter students – the Cleary Commuter Lounge, located in the Roche Commons. According to the College's website, the Cleary Commuter Lounge is intended to function as "a dedicated space for commuter students to meet their peers, work on assignments, or even just kick back and watch TV."

Tobin said that he appreciates this space, and he uses it



Photo courtesy of Abby Campbell
The Cleary Dining Room has been transformed into the Commuter Lounge

regularly between his classes.

"I think the commuter lounge is a nice space. It's pretty quiet and secluded from the main dining commons, so I like to go there to get some work done," Tobin said. "I've also made some friends with other commuters in the lounge, so I think it has been a positive experience overall."

The lounge houses both a fridge and a microwave for those bringing meals from home as well.

Freshman Sofiya Gobora, a commuter student, also said that she also feels that Stonehill does a good job of supporting its commuters.

"As a commuter student at Stonehill, I feel as though

Stonehill has done a lot to support and recognize us," Gobora said. "Stonehill has even created a commuter specific lounge and no events ever exclude commuter students which is nice -- I feel no different than any residential student."

With Stonehill's commuter population rising, Christina B. Puccio, the Coordinator of Student Engagement, said that the College will continue to work with the Commuter Council to identify and accommodate commuter needs.

"The implementation of the Cleary Commuter Lounge in a larger space is one of the bigger accommodations

that Stonehill has provided for the growing commuter population. The lounge gives commuters a designated space on campus, and it gives the students a sense of belonging, while also providing them with the opportunity to meet other commuters as well," Puccio said.

Puccio also encourages commuters to get involved on campus wherever possible.

"Take all the chances and opportunities presented to you. Ask all of the questions, submit the applications, go to the fun events," Puccio said.

"The college experience isn't something that is set in stone – it's different for everyone, and it's all about what you make of it."

Sports Broadcasting Club Reaching New Heights

BY PAIGE FITZPATRICK

Beginning as a one-man job on the College's radio station just a few years ago, Stonehill's sports broadcasting club is being taken to the next level.

Noah Powell '20 said that his journey in sports broadcasting began his sophomore year when he worked as a commentator for a few Stonehill basketball games.

"At that point that was all we had and the program itself was very sporadic," Powell said. "Collectively, there were probably only three games worked, and that was the only sport covered."

After Powell completed a sports broadcasting internship during the spring semester of his junior year, he wanted to take Stonehill's sports broadcasting program to new heights.

Powell built a small team with Desmond Bernal '21,

Joe Spadocia '23, and Chris Cassidy '23 to grow the club and expand broadcasting to cover home football games.

"We had a solid rotation of broadcast teams and collectively built on our previous week each week. For example, halftime interviews, intro and outro music, and just a more professional and better broadcast," Powell said.

Just as Powell got the ball rolling to continue their work and cover more athletics during his last semester, his sports broadcasting journey at Stonehill came to an abrupt end when the pandemic hit, and all sports games were forced to take a hiatus.

Juniors Luke Fumiatti and Joe Spadocia serve as co-presidents for Stonehill's sports broadcasting club, and Chris Cassidy serves as the head journalist and podcaster. While the three began their sports broadcasting journey at Stonehill during their freshman

year, the club was halted by the pandemic and is finally beginning to pick up steam now more than ever.

Now, with sports teams' schedules back to normal, the club covers nearly any Skyhawk sports events they can attend.

"Football and basketball are a priority because they are so popular, but there are no exceptions to what we cover. It just depends on everyone's schedule," Fumiatti said.

Bernal, a Stonehill alum and original member of Powell's first small broadcasting team, is impressed with the work that has recently been done by the club.

"It is amazing to see the work being put in to expand the sports broadcasting at the school," Bernal said. "The creativity and passion they show with this program is amazing and I am excited to see the many things they will continue to accomplish in the

future."

The team has been covering more sports on campus and plans to continue into the winter and spring seasons. They also feature some new segments like "Chris at the Tailgate" as well as write and shoot feature stories on athletes of the Stonehill community.

"Being able to learn from Noah and Des really boosted my confidence in this field and I thank them so much for it,"



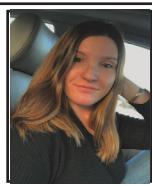
Photo courtesy of Abby Campbell
Christopher Cassidy and Joseph Spadocia live broadcasting at a Stonehill football game.

OPINION

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THE SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 2021



FROM THE EDITOR...

Elizabeth Ednie

Hey Skyhawks,

I cannot believe this is the last edition of the fall semester! I feel like this semester went by far too quick, don't you? As a senior looking back on my last three and a half-ish years at Stonehill, I can confidently say that I have learned more about myself and what I want for my future than I have in all of my 22 years of life. Stonehill definitely changed me for the better, and I just know that the experiences I've had here and the friends I have made will last forever.

My first two or so years of college weren't textbook, let me tell you that. I struggled joining clubs and putting myself out there. I've always been shy and more of a closed book until you get to know me. As I got more comfortable I began to open up and join things on campus, and I've never been happier. Recently, I've started saying "yes" to most things just because it's my last few months and making memories is high on my priority list, given we lost about a year and a half due to the pandemic.

I've become far more independent since arriving at Stonehill. I like to think I was independent before, but looking back I am much more comfortable doing most things alone that I wasn't comfortable with in high school. I value my alone time so much and find that it helps me be a better version of myself when I am in a group setting. Looking back, even though I struggled a bit in the first half of my college career, I wouldn't change a thing because I know I needed to push through those obstacles in order to learn more about myself.

I really hope that if you find yourself struggling to either make friends, get out of your room, join clubs or just do more activities at school, you find this letter as a motivator to do those things. Try and push yourself out of your comfort zone a bit, ask your neighbor to go to BINGO, or find a new face to walk to class with. Those interactions I have found led me to some of my most cherished friendships. Being friendly and saying hi to people you somewhat know is such a great way to start a friendship. Maybe the other person is struggling a bit too, and being the first one to introduce yourself or saying hi first is a great way to break the ice. You never know: that person could be the maid of honor or best man at your wedding someday.

See you in February, Skyhawks! Have a fantastic winter break!

Elizabeth Ednie
Editor in Chief ~ *The Summit*

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BY
HANNAH
LENNON

Do you have a favorite celebrity? A specific actor, musician, or influencer that just speaks to you? I do, and if you don't I think that you either live under a rock, are crazy, or are just such a manic-pixie-dream-girl that you simply cannot relate to anyone on any type of serious level. My favorite celebrity, if you haven't guessed from the title, is Taylor Swift. If you know me, you might be a bit surprised because your first guess probably would have been Harry Styles. And don't get me wrong, Mr. Styles is positively perfect with his James Dean charm topped with tattoos and the voice of an angel, but he is so ideal that I can't help but be fascinated by him. In my mind, Harry Styles sits atop a mountain of glory, but Taylor

I am Taylor Swift

Swift is reachable, with ribbons of similarities and relatability.

Ever since I was little, I've known every word to every Taylor Swift song. In fact, when I was 10 years old, I watched "Journey To Fearless"-- a miniseries about Taylor's first stadium tour-- so much that I can still quote parts of it to this day. I also remember being in the third grade and teeming with jealousy the day after Taylor Swift performed at Mohegan Sun Arena because at least three other girls in my class went to the concert and came to school the next morning wearing teal shirts bearing Taylor's face-- I was pissed and would not attend my first concert for another year, and it wasn't even Taylor Swift, it was the Jonas Brothers.

I used to picture myself as "the next Taylor Swift." I used to think I could

sing, and while words were certainly being sung, they most definitely didn't sound great. I followed this dream for a while; in middle school, I was in the choir and even was selected for the Chamber Choir, which is basically a group of choir kids who could hold a tune with significant success compared to the rest of the choir. I even tried learning piano and guitar, which I failed at, but hey, who needs another instrument when you can sing? But I couldn't sing, and subsequently gave up that dream when I got into high school and couldn't fit choir into my schedule as an elective.

So, I couldn't be her, but I still found myself in her. No, I wasn't dating Joe Jonas, Taylor Lautner, and Harry Styles, but I was still a teenage girl whose friends always made her walk behind them on the sidewalk, who

had bullies, who had crushes, who loved her mom, and who had dreams of being great. Taylor Swift is all of these things. Listen to "Mean" to hear her stand up to a bully; listen to "You Belong With Me" or "I'm Only Me When I'm With You" to hear her pour her heart out to a boy she liked; listen to "The Best Day" to hear her love her mom; listen to "The Lucky One" to hear about dreams of fame; listen to "New Romantics" to get a pretty good picture of what it's like to be a teenager, and listen to the entire Reputation album to hear what's it like to gain enough confidence to finally stand up to everyone pushing you down.

I have always been able to see a bit of myself in her lyrics, and I have always thought that if she deals with this, if she can get through it, so can I. It's not just her

music that I relate to. Taylor Swift has admitted to body image and disordered eating, just like me. She's also spoken about social justice and politics and has similar ideals and values that I do. And, just like me, she likes to tell stories-- although Folklore and Evermore are albums of poetic genius in comparison to the short fiction I compose for Creative Writing courses.

The point is, I am Taylor Swift, in my own way. I found someone that will likely never know my name or even my existence, yet she is so much a part of me that I don't know what I'd be without her.

Lennon is a senior Communications major with a double minor in Journalism and Creative Writing.

BY
JAKE
ZABSKI

"Make the most of your four years" is probably a saying many of us upperclassmen remember hearing only a few years ago, and many underclassmen are probably hearing this saying everyday now as they begin their college journeys. Don't ignore this message, because even though it's overstated, it's very important, and I regret not listening to this advice until it was almost too late.

To preface, today's version of me as a college student didn't truly exist until my junior year. Before, I lived a pretty solace and mundane life on campus. Most of the time, I would only leave my room to go to class, get food, or hangout with friends. Since I wasn't much of a party person, I wasn't involved in anything, and I

often questioned why I was even at college in the first place. I was living a shell of a life, and truthfully I always wanted to get more out of college since I didn't get anything out of high school, but some part of me just refused to leave my comfort zone. When the pandemic first hit, I was slightly relieved that I would have a bit more time within my comfort bubble at home, but it turns out that going home was the biggest wake up call for me to change my college life more than ever.

Being isolated from others and knowing that I probably would not see many of my friends for months showed me that socializing, going out and having fun, and just seeing people in your daily walks around campus is not guaranteed anymore. I had to make those moments count and not take them for granted.

Having everything moved dreadfully online showed me that those real-world experiences that were once readily available like internships or actually getting to talk to someone in person instead of over a screen, made me realize how important those connections really are. I made the decision in my head that whenever we were finally allowed back at school, that I would push myself to make the most of what I have left, and not sit in silence anymore. I couldn't have any more college regrets.

As an upperclassman, I've really pushed myself to change aspects of my life before that hurt me. It was never an easy process, but it was gradual enough where I felt comfortable hitting my milestones and making new ones. I finally got involved on campus and joined The Summit. I started to get

out of my shell and socialize more which not only boosted my self esteem and confidence, but it has made me love being on campus so much that I rarely go home anymore. I took interest in my hobbies again like photography and writing, and am always working on my portfolio. I also grew emotionally and worked on what held me back in the past.

While my journey throughout college has not come to an end yet, I am happy knowing that if it all ended tomorrow I would have few regrets. And by no means do I consider myself the perfect role model either; I'm still a work in progress, but I believe that I am proof that when you put your mind to something, it will happen. No matter what.

If you're feeling that you already have regrets about college, my advice is to

figure out what's holding you back and work on those aspects first. The work I did to change myself didn't happen overnight. Take the time to look introspectively and figure out what needs to be changed in order to move forward. I think it's also important to do things with other people as well. Do something that maybe you're uncomfortable doing with a good friend, or at least talk about it with them to find support. One thing that I do know about Stonehill is that anyone from professors, to your friends, to your peers is willing to help and guide you. Take advantage of that, and most importantly, make every day at college count.

Zabski is a junior Communication major with a minor in Journalism.

BY
PROF.
COREY
DOLGON

A few years ago, I wrote that the increased corporatization of higher education would result in the degradation of teaching and learning. Treating students as customers doesn't empower them; it merely obfuscates their function as a "final product" in the knowledge production industry. Meanwhile, the workers in our factories—faculty, staff, facilities, kitchen employees, etc.—bear the brunt of cost-saving, deskilling, automation, privatization and other forms of what has become known short-handedly as neoliberalism.

Colleges such as Stonehill save money by not filling vacant full-time faculty positions and hiring adjunct teachers at less than half the cost. This trend exploits full-timers who have to take on more advising and administrative duties while also exploiting adjuncts who teach courses at a fraction of fair wages with no benefits. Administrative staff, too, are

not replaced or asked to work less hours yet accomplish more tasks. And facilities workers are constantly required to clean more buildings, cover more territory, while administrations refuse to bargain fairly on salary and benefits. As more and more jobs are broken down into part-time work with no health or retirement benefits, students are run through increasingly stressful diploma mills. They get less attention from fewer faculty already overwhelmed by increased workloads, and the College hires more and more low and mid-level administrators to manage the ensuing chaos. Everybody loses, but no one seems to care or can even consider an alternative.

Scholar Henry Giroux wrote that higher education has "surrendered to an empirical reality aligned with a savage neoliberalism, and College Presidents "govern as if running Goldman-Sachs." Research is measured by grants received and faculty are forced to preach market values and guide career

trajectories, not teach critical approaches to disciplinary knowledge and social ills. Instead of students being provided with opportunities to be civically and critically responsible citizens, they get higher tuition costs, student centers that look more and more like shopping malls, and massive debts that defer any dreams of a dignified future. Everything runs like a business and students are less customers and more the finished products we provide for the labor market.

The result at a place like Stonehill College is stressed out and bewildered students, a demoralized and degraded faculty, and a struggling, marginalized staff. Giroux concludes, however, that, "there is nothing inevitable about this process." What gets lost, according to Giroux, "are not only radical ideas, socially engaged students, and socially responsible academics, but also the very notion that there could be a serious alternative to the present."

As the student movement for LGBTQ+ rights at Stonehill once demanded, "It Needs

to Get Better at Stonehill." Students, faculty, and staff can begin by demanding transparency and democracy. We must ask questions about why cuts to employee compensation are being made when the endowment has grown by \$90 million and we have a significant surplus left from last year's operating budget. We need to know where the money goes and why, and then acquire the power to impact those decisions. We have to be willing to support one another in the kinds of actions that force administrators to think outside the box and offer alternative visions for education and social justice.

In 1964, students at the University of California—Berkeley began a Free Speech Movement [FSM] to end administrative restrictions on their ability to protest campus policies and establish democratic means of decision making. In encouraging student action, FSM leader, Mario Savio, proclaimed that, "There is a time when the operation of the machine

becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part! You can't even passively take part! And you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels ... upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop!"

In 2012, LGBTQ+ students and their allies won significant changes at Stonehill by demonstrating on and off campus: flanking entrances and protesting outside of Board of Trustees meetings. They even started their own social media movement and encouraged people to stop donating to the College until it created a fair and just policy for everyone. They won!"

Taking such actions may again be necessary to restore teaching and learning to the core of the College's mission—not bottom-line corporate banditry. Organizing and action may be necessary to save Stonehill College from itself.

Dolgon is a professor of Sociology.

BY
LAUREN
MORAN

Everyday athletes are faced with the challenging question of what they will eat before and after practice. At Roger Williams University, athletes have access to a smoothie bar and fresh snacks in their athletic complex, making it easier for them to fuel.

Here at Stonehill, there's no food inside the Sports Complex for athletes. The field hockey team is lucky if we

get a go-go squeeze from the locker room before practice.

The dining hall situation isn't any better-- there is only one healthy option for dinner: Simple 7. Although it's available, it is consistently the same meal of chicken, rice, broccoli, and cauliflower for dinner. That alone is never enough for athletes practicing every day burning hundreds of calories.

One team at Stonehill that doesn't have an issue with getting enough nutrients before

and after their practice is the football team. The entire team has access to the nutrition station located in the football suite. The station consists of a fridge full of fresh snacks, bananas, protein powders, and drawers filled with snacks.

For their game days, the football team is given several pre and post-game meals and snacks while several other varsity teams have a strict and small budget to work with to feed their players. Instead of thinking about

the entire athletic community and figuring out a way to give access to nutrition for all athletes, the department has repeatedly only granted these privileges to the football team. Although the team gets more funding than other sports at Stonehill, there should be a food option available for every athlete in the sports complex.

All athletes deserve access to a full nutrition station with fresh snacks, fruit, and drinks-- it will only improve

athletic performance for the programs. Long gone would be the days of Stonehill athletes scrounging for food before and after practice.

They would be more fueled and prepared for practice or games, bringing home more wins for Skyhawk Nation.

Moran is a sophomore Communications major with a minor in Journalism.

Making the most of it

What's wrong with Stonehill and how we can fix it

Fuel only for football?

Volleyball's five seniors sum up careers ahead of saturday's senior day

BY BELLA SANTORO

Saturday will be an emotional day for Stonehill Volleyball's five members of the Class of 2022, who will be honored on "Senior Day" against the University of New Haven at 2 p.m. in Merkert Gymnasium.

Each of the five members of the senior class have made a tremendous impact on the program, both on and off the court.

Ahead of Saturday's Senior Day, I had the pleasure of catching up with the five '22's, Abby Remick, Lauren Wilke, Clare Freeman, Carly Russell and Shannon Burgess who all reflected upon their careers wearing Skyhawk Purple and White.

Much like any senior athlete approaching their final game at home, there's a mix of emotions. Just ask senior captain, Abby Remick.

"I have tried to not think too much about the end of my volleyball career, to be honest," Remick said. "I am excited for the physical day of it and the game, but also sad as this will be my last time playing as a Skyhawk in Merkert."

Even though the day itself brings so many emotions, the five seniors are focused more than ever as they look to take down the number one seed in the conference, the New Haven Chargers, on Saturday.

"I am excited for Senior Day especially because we will be playing the University of New Haven so it will be a big game for not only us Seniors but the whole team," senior captain, Lauren Wilke said.

Not only is Senior Day filled with so many feelings, but it's

also a time the seniors reflect on memories made during their four-year careers as players. The seniors reflected on some of the funniest and best memories they've made while being a part of the program.

"On the court the best memory so far would have to be sophomore year when we beat LeMoyne in the quarterfinals of playoffs to advance us to the semifinals," senior Carly Russell said. "It was such a good game and we all played very well. I still remember the adrenaline and how happy we all were after we won."

Although the memories made didn't end at the white line of the court, but beyond Merkert gymnasium they shared some laughs and smiles as well.

"It's hard to talk about just one because there are so many, I've had so many laughs with these girls and I think laughing with them about stupid stuff is one of the things I will miss the most," senior Shannon Burgess said. "My favorite Stonehill Volleyball memory

off the court has to be this year when we went back to fellow senior Abby Remick's house for a barbecue and we just ate, talked, and laughed all day and night."

Senior Clare Freeman said there are a lot of emotions that come with the name of Senior Day but is thankful for more than putting the Stonehill jersey on.

"I'm thankful for all of it; I'll miss my teammates the most, especially those that have been by my side for a long time, and obviously the game of volleyball itself that has been a part of my life for such a long time."

Whether they first hit a volleyball in New York, Rhode Island, Michigan, Florida, or Missouri, the five seniors are ending their Skyhawk volleyball career in the one place that turned them into best friends: the Merkert Gymnasium.

"I am very proud of the athletes all five of us have developed into in the past four years; the seniors and I have

gone through some much," Burgess said. "We have all stuck with each other the past four years from the ups to the downs and I wouldn't trade the team and memories I have for the world."

"I'm going to miss my teammates, especially these four, so much," Remick said. "It's crazy to think about how Stonehill volleyball took the five of us seniors from different places across the country and formed an unbreakable bond."

No matter the occasion, the players will forever be grateful for the opportunity Stonehill Volleyball has given them to play in such a great conference.

"I will miss the constant competition the most and playing at such a high level in college," Freeman said. "Not many people get the chance to compete in college, never mind in the NE-10."

While it will be a very sad day knowing their time as collegiate athletes is ending, the seniors will smile as they

step onto the court one last time knowing the sport has taught them so many lessons and given them some of their closest friends.

"Volleyball has been a big part of my life for quite some time now, and I have such love for it," Wilke said.

"From the bus trip back from New York my freshman year where the five of us sat in the back and built a fort out of blankets like little kids to stepping on the court as seniors playing our final game, I will forever be thankful for Stonehill Volleyball being a part of my life," Freeman said.

As they lace up one last time and pump up to music in the locker room before Saturday's game, Burgess, Freeman, Remick, Russell, and Wilke can only smile knowing they left a legacy behind them. "It's always been the five of us and looking back it's really hard to imagine that this adventure is coming to an end. I feel like it's part of the end to an era," Russell said.

The five seniors are super grateful for everything that Stonehill Volleyball has allowed them to do, and they can't wait to finish it with the same people they started with! Come support these fabulous five at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the Merkert Gymnasium!

Photo Courtesy by Carly Russell:

Seniors Clare Freeman, Lauren Wilke, Carly Russell, Shannon Burgess, and Abby Remick.



Homecoming weekend brings families and alumni

BY CHRISTOPHER CASSIDY

Sporting events highlighted this year's homecoming weekend as prospective students toured the college and alumni looked at what changed over the years.

"Homecoming went extremely well," Sydney Ledoux, the Outreach Communications Coordinator for the Student Alumni Association, said. "The Alumni were very pleased and appreciated that their kids had something to do; a large number of the alumni at-

tended the sporting events that came as part of this amazing Saturday homecoming."

Activities included multiple games on the quad, a photo location with bales of hay, plenty of locations for food, and "Skyhawk Shop" clothes were available for purchase.

Ledoux, who is also the President of the Resident Hall Association and the head of the Spirit Committee, set up a face painting station where she painted the faces of Alumni's kids.

"It was fun, and it

definitely seemed like the kids were into it," she said.

The festivities kicked off on October 16 at 11 a.m. with the women's soccer team, who defeated the University of Maine Fort Kent with a final score of 5-0. There was also a "Family Food Truck Festival" on the main quad.

At noon, students interested in attending Stonehill toured the school along with their families. Alumni also had a chance to tour the campus to get a look at what changed since graduation.

The Stonehill football team faced off against Saint Anselm College in the battle for the Ol' Bronze Hawk at 1 p.m. at W.B. Mason Stadium, where they ended up defeating the Hawks 31-22, keeping the Bronze Hawk in Easton for a 17 year in a row.

Men's soccer played American International College at 2 p.m. but lost 4-0.

Closing out the athletics on Homecoming Weekend, the volleyball team took down Saint Michael's in a three-set

sweep.

Ledoux expects the next homecoming to be even more successful as the group looks to incorporate even more activities and events in the future. "We hope more alumni will be in attendance from past and recently graduated classes," Ledoux said. "Many alumni were not able to make it because of work, their children's extracurriculars, or covid related situations, so while attendance was amazing and everyone had fun, we hope to improve on it from the past year."



SUMMIT SPORTS

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THE SUMMIT

November 3, 2021

Stonehill equestrian team rides again!



BY RACHEL GALATIS

After two years of not being able to compete, the equestrian team placed second in their first meet hosted by Boston University at Holly Hill Farm in Hanover, Mass.

The "Boston University Show" was open to team affiliates only, as spectators are not allowed at events due to Covid-19 regulations. The next show was hosted by Stonehill at Mor Linn Farm in Walpole, Mass., where the team placed fourth.

In their most recent show hosted by Bentley University, the team travelled to Century Mills Stables in Bolton, Mass., on Halloween, where the team placed fourth yet again.

In preparation for shows, the team partici-

pates in numerous team bonding activities, such as team dinners, scavenger hunts, and their annual "ribbon making" tradition.

"At our first team dinner of the semester, which was a couple of weeks ago, we ordered pizza, cleaned our boots, and made the purple, black, and white ribbons you might see on our backpacks around campus," Hannah Lennon, one of the three team captains said.

Lennon said that part of their bonding also comes from workouts, which consist of two varsity lifts per week, as well as one captain's practice. She credits the "hard work we do as a team" during each session, which are usually an

hour long each time.

All 14 members of the team cannot practice riding at once, since there are only five horses leased out for the team to use, so the team practices in small groups. There is one lesson each day Monday through Friday, so every team member practices twice.

Practices are held at Mor Linn Farm early in the morning, and shows are held on the weekends. Because shows are usually a distance away, the team must be at the Sally Blair Ames Sports Complex by 6 a.m. on show days and do not return until later in the afternoon, according to Lennon.

"Spending so much time together, supporting each other as we ride,

the team, I would be able to still do something I love while being at school," McHale said.

Tryouts are held at the beginning of the semester and are open to anyone, regardless of experience.

McHale said that her favorite part of the show is the anticipation that comes before each ride.

"The anticipation is so fun, and you are just so excited to get in there and do what you love," McHale said.

Anticipation also comes from finding out which horse team members are going to ride in the show, as they are selected and assigned randomly based on a pick out of a hat, which Lennon said, "tests our ability and adaptability as a rider."

Many students are fascinated by the idea behind the equestrian program, since it is the only sport that involves animals.

Julianna Rizza, a junior, said that she thinks that riding horses is unique and something the team should be proud of.

"Horses are very elegant and majestic creatures and a team that appreciates it as a sport is quite fascinating," Rizza said.

The team's final show will be hosted by Boston College on Sunday, November 7 at Hillside Meadows Equestrian Center in Grafton, Mass.

Photo Courtesy of Kaylee McHale

UPCOMING SPORTING EVENTS

Women's Swimming: Fri., 11/5 @ 4 p.m.

Men's Ice Hockey: Fri., 11/5 @ 6:50 p.m.

Women's Volleyball: Fri., 11/5 @ 7:30 p.m.

Men's & Women's Crosscountry: Sat., 11/6

Football: Sat., 11/6 @ 1 p.m.

Women's Volleyball: 2 p.m.

Men's Ice Hockey: Sat., 4:30 p.m.

Equestrian: Sun., 11/7 @ 9 a.m.

